

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04773 171523Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SYE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /038 W
-----123364 171559Z /45
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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9274
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 04773

DEPT FOR GWYN-A/SY/PRS/DD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: SECURITY FOR SYRIAN OFFICIALS

1. INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANTEE FAISAL SAMMAK, PRESIDENT OF THE SYRIAN BAATH PARTY REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH MOVEMENT (RY) HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT HIS PERSONAL SECURITY DURING HIS TRAVEL THROUGH LONDON AND IN US ALONG WITH HIS WIFE AND TWO OTHER RY LEADERS.

2. HE HAS A POINT. HE IS A HIGH PROFILE ALAWITE OFFICIAL IN SYRIA WHICH HAS SEEN THE ASSASSINATION OF 18 PROMINENT ALAWITES OVER THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF. IN ADDITION, SYRIA IS INVOLVED IN THE BITTER STRUGGLE BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND IRAQIS WHICH HAS LED TO SEVERAL ASSASSINATIONS IN EUROPE. I BELIEVE SECURITY MEASURES ARE IN ORDER. DEPARTMENT CAN BEST DETERMINE APPROPRIATE MEASURES.

3. SAMMAK'S ITINERARY IS AS FOLLOWS: DAMASCUS-GENEVA ON SR-387 FRIDAY, AUGUST 18; ETD 1155, ETA 1615. GENEVA-LONDON SAME DAY ON SR-812; ETD 1755, ETA 1925. LONDON-NEW YORK (JFK) ON PA-103, SUNDAY, AUGUST 20; ETD 1630, CONFIDENTIAL

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ETA 1905. NEW YORK-WASHDC SAME DAY ON EASTERN, ETD-OPEN. WE DO NOT HAVE INFORMATION ON PROGRAM IN US WHICH PRESUMABLY CAN BE SUPPLIED BY USICA.

4. FOR LONDON: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CHECKING WITH SYRIAN EMBASSY TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE AWARE OF SAMMAK'S ITINERARY AND ARE TAKING APPROPRIATE STEPS. SEELYE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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